



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,717	04/04/2001	Richard W. Stoakley	MFPCP.76395	3160

5251 7590 03/25/2004
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON LLP
2555 GRAND BLVD
KANSAS CITY,, MO 64108

EXAMINER

ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2173

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/825,717

Applicant(s)

STOAKLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 29 January 2004 have been received and entered. Claims 1-21 as amended are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moon et al. U.S. Patent 6,385,662.

Referring to claim 1, Moon et al. teach a method in a computer system for organizing and displaying notification items associated with corresponding notifications on a display (icons and application launch buttons associated with the system applications, displayed on the status bar, as shown by reference character "115" in Figure 1) having a notification area (status bar shown by reference character "121" in Figure 1) (column 4, lines 17-22 and 56-60) comprising identifying an item associated with a notification area icon (the application that is associated with the status bar icon; for example, if an email arrives, a message icon is sent to the status bar) (column 4, lines 20-30 and 56-60) and monitoring an interval of time associated with an activity of the item (after a period of time, the message icon associated with the application disappears) (column 4, lines 63-67). This can further be seen from Figures 2 and 4.

Referring to claim 2, Moon et al. teach arranging the notification area items (message icons) in the order in which the notifications occur (as more notifications are received, they are each displayed on the status bar) (column 3, lines 10-13 and column 4, lines 17-22).

Referring to claim 3, Moon et al. teach comparing of the level of activity of the monitored item against a predetermined threshold value and hiding that item if the level of activity is less than the threshold value (if the user chooses to ignore the message icon for a certain amount of time, in other words, the level of activity of the item is below a certain threshold value of some user acknowledgement of the item, then the message icon is hidden, or disappears), as recited in column 4, lines 63-67.

Referring to claim 4, Moon et al. teach determining the occurrence of activity on the monitored and hidden item, and revealing the item by redisplaying the item upon the occurrence of activity. When the system receives an event, notification of that event is displayed on the

status bar (for example, if there is an incoming email message, a message icon can be sent to the status area) (column 3, lines 10-13 and column 4, lines 29-31 and 56-60); therefore, if the system receives an event from the same application that has a previous hidden message, the message icon will be revealed, or redisplayed on the status bar). Also, if the user selects the history icon, then the message icon are redisplayed on an history event log and can further be selected by the user, as recited in column 5, lines 39-50

Referring to claim 5, Moon et al. teach revealing the icons in order of the most recently active application through display of the notification icons that has the most recent level of activity. When the user selects the history icon, a history file showing an event log of hidden messages are displayed with information such as time, date, etc. (column 5, lines 39-50); therefore, the user can respond to the event messages according to the most recently active application, or the most recent event message.

Referring to claim 6, Moon et al. teach a computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1 (personal communication assistant "PCA), as recited in column 1, lines 6-15.

Referring to claim 7, Moon et al. teach a computer system having a processor, memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 1 (personal communication assistant "PCA), as recited in column 1, lines 6-15.

Referring to claim 8, Moon et al. teach a method in a computer system for organizing and displaying notification items associated with corresponding notifications on a display (icons and application launch buttons associated with the system applications, displayed on the status bar, as shown by reference character "115" in Figure 1) having a notification area (status bar shown by

reference character "121" in Figure 1) (column 4, lines 17-22 and 56-60). Specifically, Moon et al. teach the method comprising hiding inactive notification item icons that meet a preset threshold of inactivity (hiding message icons that the user ignores after a fixed time period elapses), retrieving a chevron icon (displaying a history icon), and upon meeting an unhide criteria, displaying and arranging each of the notification items in the notification area and removing the chevron icon when there are no more hidden items (once the user decides to respond to the event by selecting the history, or chevron icon, the messages are displayed to the user in an event log file, and removing the history icon once the user's response is complete, i.e., there are no more messages), as recited in column 4, lines 63-67 and column 5, lines 1-4 and 39-50. This can further be seen from Figures 2 and 4.

Referring to claim 9, Moon et al. teach receiving a chevron entry selection signal indicative of user selection of the chevron icon, and in response to the chevron selection signal, displaying each of the hidden notification items on the display (receiving user selection of the history icon and displaying the hidden messages in the event log upon that selection), as recited in column 4, lines 39-50.

Referring to claim 10, Moon et al. teach the unhide criteria being met when an entry selection signal indicative of a user selection of the notification item icon is selected by the user from the displayed, previously hidden icons (when the user selects the history icon, therefore satisfying an unhide criteria, the previously hidden messages are displayed to the user), as recited in column 4, lines 39-50.

Referring to claim 11, Moon et al. teach displaying the notification item icon in the notification area on the display in response to the selection (displaying the message icons in the history log upon user selection of the history icon), as recited in column 4, lines 39-50.

Referring to claim 12, Moon et al. teach the notification item icon being placed on the notification area (column 3, lines 10-13); therefore, as further shown in Figure 1, icons can be placed anywhere on the status bar, whether to the far left or the far right.

Referring to claim 13, Moon et al. teach a computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 8 (personal communication assistant "PCA), as recited in column 1, lines 6-15.

Referring to claim 14, Moon et al. teach a computer system having a processor, memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 8 (personal communication assistant "PCA), as recited in column 1, lines 6-15.

3. Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oran et al. U.S. Patent 5,757,371.

Referring to claim 15, Oran et al. teach a system having a graphical user interface including a display (column 1, lines 66-67 and column 2, line 1) and a method of providing and selecting options for configuring notification items within a notification area (column 3, lines 1-11). This can further be seen from Figure 14. Specifically, Oran et al. teach a method comprising retrieving a notification item, wherein the notification item corresponds to an item displayed in the notification area (the sub-elements, or visual indicators on the taskbar of the active windows), displaying the notification item icon (visual indicators representing notification items, such as

“Start”, shown by reference character “32”, “Microsoft Mail”, shown by reference character “40”, and the clock, shown by reference character “34” in Figure 7), a description associated with the notification and a hiding behavior characteristic to be associated with the notification item (the “Taskbar Properties” configuration box shown in Figures 14 and 20 shows descriptions associated with taskbar items and a hiding behavior, such as “Show Clock” or “Auto Hide” associated with the notification items such as the clock on the taskbar) (column 8, lines 52-67 and column 9, lines 10-12) and repeating the retrieving and displaying step for each of the items that are added to the notification area up to a predetermined maximum number (at most, the taskbar can only occupy half of the graphical user interface, therefore, there is a maximum number of items that can be added to the taskbar) (column 7, lines 43-45).

Referring to claim 16, Oran et al. teach a selection signal indicative of a user selection of a choice of behavior for a notification item (check mark next to behavior), shown in Figure 14.

Referring to claim 17, Oran et al. teach a method to reset the behavior associated with each notification item to a default state (the start menu has a default behavior of containing certain menu items; also, the “Taskbar Properties” box has a default value when first displayed, for example, no items checked), as recited in column 9, lines 44-45 and column 10, lines 21-23.

Referring to claim 18, Oran et al. teach display of the notification icon, description and behavior on the display includes displaying the item in an order associated with the appearance of the item in the notification area (users can click on each of the notification item icons in the order in which it appears, thereby displaying the notification items in the order it appears in the notification area), as shown by Figure 8.

Referring to claim 19, Oran et al. teach a predetermined maximum upon which no more items can be added (at most, the taskbar can only occupy half of the graphical user interface, therefore, there is a maximum number of items that can be added to the taskbar) (column 7, lines 43-45). Therefore, if more items are to be added, it would be obvious to replace the oldest items first, in order to allow users to keep the most up to date items in the display area, giving users access to items they are more likely to use.

Referring to claim 20, Oran et al. teach a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 15, as recited in column 5, lines 18-27.

Referring to claim 21, Oran et al. teach a computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 15, as recited in column 5, lines 18-27.

4. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar methods for displaying notification icons.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to claim 1, Moon et al. teach a method in a computer system for organizing and displaying notification items associated with corresponding notifications on a display (icons and application launch buttons associated with the system applications, displayed on the status bar, as shown by reference character “115” in Figure 1) having a notification area (status bar shown by reference character “121” in Figure 1) (column 4, lines 17-22 and 56-60) comprising identifying an item associated with a notification area icon (the application that is associated with the status bar icon; for example, if an email arrives, a message icon is sent to the status bar) (column 4, lines 20-30 and 56-60) and monitoring an interval of time associated with an activity of the item (after a period of time, the message icon associated with the application disappears) (column 4, lines 63-67). This can further be seen from Figures 2 and 4.

In response to claim 8, Moon et al. teach a method in a computer system for organizing and displaying notification items associated with corresponding notifications on a display (icons and application launch buttons associated with the system applications, displayed on the status bar, as shown by reference character “115” in Figure 1) having a notification area (status bar shown by reference character “121” in Figure 1) (column 4, lines 17-22 and 56-60). Specifically, Moon et al. teach the method comprising hiding inactive notification item icons that meet a preset threshold of inactivity (hiding message icons that the user ignores after a fixed time period elapses), retrieving a chevron icon (displaying a history icon), and upon meeting an unhide criteria, displaying and arranging each of the notification items in the notification area and removing the chevron icon when there are no more hidden items (once the user decides to respond to the event by selecting the history, or chevron icon, the messages are displayed to the user in an event log file, and removing the history icon once the user’s response is complete, i.e.,

Art Unit: 2173

there are no more messages), as recited in column 4, lines 63-67 and column 5, lines 1-4 and 39-50. This can further be seen from Figures 2 and 4.

In response to claim 15, Oran et al. teach a system having a graphical user interface including a display (column 1, lines 66-67 and column 2, line 1) and a method of providing and selecting options for configuring notification items within a notification area (column 3, lines 1-11). This can further be seen from Figure 14. Specifically, Oran et al. teach a method comprising retrieving a notification item, wherein the notification item corresponds to an item displayed in the notification area (the sub-elements, or visual indicator on the taskbar of the active windows), displaying the notification item icon (visual indicators representing notification items, such as "Start", shown by reference character "32", "Microsoft Mail", shown by reference character "40", and the clock, shown by reference character "34" in Figure 7), a description associated with the notification and a hiding behavior characteristic to be associated with the notification item (the "Taskbar Properties" configuration box shown in Figures 14 and 20 shows descriptions associated with taskbar items and a hiding behavior, such as "Show Clock" or "Auto Hide" associated with the notification items such as the clock) and repeating the retrieving and displaying step for each of the items that are added to the notification area up to a predetermined maximum number (at most, the taskbar can only occupy half of the graphical user interface, therefore, there is a maximum number of items that can be added to the taskbar) (column 7, lines 43-45).


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (703)305-0328. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

march 4, 2004



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2